

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An article of footwear for a hoofed animal comprising:

a support designed to bear against a hoof of the animal and against the ground; and

an enclosure designed to enclose at least part of the hoof of the animal, said enclosure including a wall on said support, and said enclosure further including a ~~pair of tongues~~ front tongue and a rear tongue, each of which is of one piece with said support and ~~each of which has a major portion which is~~ pivotable relative to said wall;

wherein the front tongue is directly attached to the support and the rear tongue is directly attached to the wall of the enclosure.

2. (original) The article of claim 1, wherein said tongues are located diametrically opposite one another.

3. (previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein said enclosure further comprises at least one band of pleated material connected to one of said tongues and to said wall.

4. (previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein

said enclosure further comprises at least one band of elastic material connected to one of said tongues and to said wall.

5. (previously presented) The article of claim 4, wherein said one tongue has a pair of opposed edges and said one band joins one of said edges to said wall, said enclosure including an additional band of elastic material joining the other of said edges to said wall.

6. (previously presented) The article of claim 4, wherein said enclosure further comprises at least one band of pleated material connected to the other of said tongues and to said wall.

7. (original) The article of claim 1, further comprising a protrusion on one of said tongues to facilitate manipulation of said one tongue.

8. (original) The article of claim 7, wherein said protrusion comprises a strap.

9. (original) The article of claim 7, wherein said protrusion defines a loop.

10. (original) The article of claim 1, further comprising means for tightening said enclosure around the leg of the animal.

11. (previously presented) The article of claim 10, further comprising a removable cover for at least part of said tightening means.

12. (original) The article of claim 10, wherein said tightening means comprises a tightening element which engages said enclosure and an operating device designed to exert a force on said tightening element so as to draw said enclosure around the leg of the animal.

13. (previously presented) The article of claim 12, further comprising a removable cover for at least part of said operating device.

14. (original) The article of claim 12, wherein said operating device comprises a rotary mechanism.

15. (previously presented) The article of claim 12, wherein said operating device is mounted on said wall.

16. (original) The article of claim 12, wherein said operating device is mounted on one of said tongues.

17. (previously presented) The article of claim 12, wherein said tightening element passes through said wall and is slidable relative thereto.

18. (previously presented) An article of footwear for a hoofed animal comprising:

a support designed to bear against a hoof of the animal and against the ground; and

an enclosure designed to enclose at least part of the hoof of the animal, said enclosure including a wall on said support, a tongue on said support movable relative to said wall, and at least one band of elastic material connected to said tongue and to said wall.

19. (previously presented) The article of claim 18, wherein said tongue has a pair of opposed edges and said one band joins one of said edges to said wall, said enclosure including an additional band of elastic material joining the other of said edges to said wall.

20. (previously presented) The article of claim 18, wherein said tongue and said at least one band are made from different pieces of material.

21. (previously presented) The article of claim 4, wherein said one tongue and said at least one band are made from different pieces of material.